

In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claims 1-36 without prejudice. Please add new claims 37-56, as indicated below.

1-36. (Canceled).

37. (New) A method for stimulating a subjects response to a vaccine comprising administering an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide adjuvant as a vaccine adjuvant to the subject to stimulate the subject's response to the vaccine.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide is linked to a nucleic acid delivery complex.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a cationic lipid.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oligonucleotide is covalently linked to the nucleic acid delivery complex.

43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oligonucleotide is ionically linked to or encapsulated in the nucleic acid delivery complex.

44. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a sterol.

45. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises 5'-TCAACGTT-3', 5'-TGACGTT-3', or 5'TGACGTC3'.

46. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the subject is human.

47. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered orally.

48. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered by injection.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the injection is subcutaneous, intravenous, or parenteral.

50. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered transdermally.

51. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the oligonucleotide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide is 8-40 nucleotides in length.

53. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises X₁X₂CGX₃X₄ 3', wherein C and G are unmethylated, X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ are nucleotides and a GCG trinucleotide sequence is not present at or near the 5' and 3' termini.

54. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the unmethylated cytosine-guanine is flanked by two 5' purines and two 3' pyrimidines.

55. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide includes at least two unmethylated cytosine-guanine motifs.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein at least one of the at least two unmethylated cytosine-guanine motifs is not palindromic.